

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

STANLEY HARDEE,

Plaintiff,

v.

**9:08-CV-1385
(GLS/GJD)**

**D. KIOSE, C.O., Franklin Correctional
Facility; and JOHN DOE, Sgt.,
Franklin Correctional Facility,**

Defendants.

APPEARANCES:

OF COUNSEL:

FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

STANLEY HARDEE
07-R-2800
Last Known Address:
Coxsackie Correctional Facility
Box 999
Coxsackie, New York 12051

FOR THE DEFENDANTS:

HON. ANDREW M. CUOMO,
Attorney General for the
State of New York
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

AARON M. BALDWIN
Assistant Attorney General

**Gary L. Sharpe
United States District Judge**

DECISION AND ORDER

The court cannot locate *pro se* plaintiff, Stanley Hardee.

Accordingly, it considers *sua sponte* Hardee's noncompliance with this District's Local Rules by failing to notify the court of his current address and by not prosecuting his action.

On December 31, 2008, Stanley Hardee filed a 1983 prisoner civil rights action. See *Dkt. No. 1*. On May 21, 2009, an order was issued granting the plaintiff's *in forma pauperis* application. At that time, he was advised of his obligation to adhere to the Federal and Local Rules even though he was a *pro se* litigant. See *Dkt. No. 9*. The plaintiff has not complied with this order. This district has expended considerable effort in order to familiarize *pro se* litigants with those Rules by reminding them of their obligations in various documents and orders mailed to them, and by preparing a Pro Se Handbook that is easily accessible. See <http://www.nynd.uscourts.gov>. In fact, copies of the Handbook have been provided to all prison libraries in the Northern District.

In relevant part, Local Rule ("L.R.") 10.1(b) provides:

All ... pro se litigants must immediately notify the court of any change of address. The notice of change of address is

to be filed with the clerk of the court and served on all other parties to the action. The notice must identify each and every action for which the notice shall apply.... (emphasis in original).

In turn, L.R. 41.2(b) provides that the “[f]ailure to notify the Court of a change of address in accordance with L.R. 10.1(b) may result in the dismissal of any pending action.”

L.R. 41.2(b) mirrors Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which affords the court discretionary authority to dismiss an action because of the failure to prosecute or to comply with any order of the court. *Link v. Wabash R.R. County Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 370 U.S. 626 (1962); *see also, Lyell Theater Corp. v. Loews Corp.*, 628 F. 2d 37 (2d Cir. 1982).

On September 14, 2009, the Clerk of the Court sent a receipt of the partial filing fee to the plaintiff. *See September 14, 2009 docket entry.* Hardee’s copy of the receipt was mailed to his last known address, but was marked returned to sender - not here and no forwarding address orders. *See Dkt. No. 16.* This court ascertained that Hardee was conditionally released to parole on September 10, 2009. *See N.Y.S. Department of Corrections website: <http://nysdocslookup.docs.state.ny.us>.*

On October 13, 2009, the court issued an order directing Hardee to notify the court within fourteen days of his current address and/or verify that his mailing address as listed in the caption of this order. *See Dkt. No. 17*. The court warned Hardee that his failure to comply with the order could result in dismissal for failure to comply with L.R. 10.1(b) and 41.2(b). Hardee's copy of the order was mailed to his last known address, but was marked returned to sender - not here and released on September 10, 2009. (Dkt. No. 18).

For the orderly disposition of cases, it is essential that litigants honor their continuing obligation to keep the court informed of address changes. *Michaud v. Williams*, 98cv1141, 1999 WL 33504430, at *1 (N.D.N.Y. Nov. 5, 1999) (citing *Fenza v. Conklin*, 177 F.R.D. 126 (N.D.N.Y. 1998) (Pooler, then D.J.). As Judge Pooler has observed:

It is neither feasible nor legally required that the clerks of the district courts undertake independently to maintain current addresses on all parties to pending actions. It is incumbent upon litigants to inform the clerk of address changes, for it is manifest that communications between the clerk and the parties or their counsel will be conducted principally by mail. In addition to keeping the clerk informed of any change of address, parties are obliged to make timely status inquiries. Address changes normally would be reflected by those inquiries if made in writing.

Dansby v. Albany County Corr. Staff, 95cv1525, 1996 WL 172699, *1 (N.D.N.Y. Ap. 10, 1996) (citations omitted)).

As a matter of course, courts in this district have dismissed actions when litigants have failed to abide by either the Local Rules or orders related to address changes, and have subsequently failed to prosecute their actions. See *Williams v. Faulkner*, 95cv741, 1998 WL 278288 (N.D.N.Y. May 20, 1998); *Dansby*, 1996 WL 172699, at *1; *Fenza*, 177 F.R.D. at 126; *cf. Michaud*, 1999 WL 33504430, at *1.

Hardee's failure to provide this court with a change of address warrants dismissal. Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure allows a court to dismiss an action for failure to prosecute. According, it is hereby

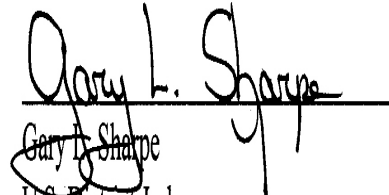
ORDERED that Hardees's complaint is **DISMISSED** for failure to notify the court of his current address, failure to prosecute and for failure to comply with this court's October 13 order, and it is further

ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court serve copies of this Order to the parties by regular mail at the addresses listed in the caption; and it is further

ORDERED that the Clerk serve plaintiff at his last known address.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 1, 2009
Albany, New York



Gary L. Sharpe
U.S. District Judge